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Role of DTC in Evaluating Drug Use

Dr. Luca Li Bassi, MD, Dip Mgt, DPH
Pharmaceutical Management
Advisory Services

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This presentation is based on the Training Course developed by MSH (RPM Plus) in collaboration with WHO in 2001 and revised in 2007.



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Session Objectives:

- Understand the importance of evaluating hospital drug use.
- Discuss the impact of prescribing practices on:
 - clinical outcome;
 - hospital budget and medicine supply systems;
 - patients right to affordable, quality and equitable health care.

Key Definition: Drug Use Evaluation

Ongoing, systematic review system of medicine evaluations that will ensure appropriate medicine use and good planning of medicine needs.



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Drug Use Evaluation

There is the need to:

- **Define** appropriate medicine use (by establishing STGs)
- **Audit** STGs against what is being prescribed
- **Give feedback** to prescribers on all identified problems
- **Monitor** if STGs are followed and prescribing is improved.

Strategies to improve medicine use:

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Managerial
 - Standard treatment guidelines
 - Prescribing/dispensing restrictions
 - Clinical pharmacy programs
- ✓ Regulatory



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Possible problems

- Overuse or underuse of medications (for example more consumption than expected from morbidity patterns)
- Excessive number of non-formulary medications used
- Use of high-cost medicines where less expensive alternatives exist (for example statins)
- Excessive number of medicines within a therapeutic category (for example anti-hypertensives, NSAIDs)



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Possible Approach to Drug Use Evaluation

1. Collect data and organize results.
2. Analyze data.
3. Develop recommendations and plan of action.
4. Conduct drug use evaluation follow-up.

Concentrate on medicines with highest potential for problems:

- High volume
- High ADR rate
- Expensive medicines
- Antimicrobials
- Injections

Establish thresholds for intervention:

i.e. 90% of prescription within STGs

Determine why thresholds (benchmarks) are not met

Analyze data quarterly or more frequently



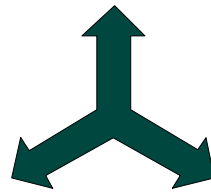
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Strategies to Improve Medicine Use

Educational: *to
inform or
persuade*



Managerial:
*to structure or guide
decisions*

Regulatory:
*to restrict or limit
decisions*



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Strategies

Educational:

- In-service education
- Pharmaceutical bulletins and newsletters
- Formulary manuals
- Face-to-face education
- Patient Education

Managerial:

- Drug Use Evaluation
- STG
- Clinical pharmacy programs
(generic/therapeutic substitution, treatment course packaging etc)
- Medicine restrictions and control
formulary inclusion/restrictions, automatic stop orders

Regulatory programs:

- registration of medicines, professionals, facilities



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Possible Interventions

- Develop Recommendations and Plan of Action
- Check to see that recommendations have been implemented.
- Re-evaluate to see if problems have been resolved
- Feedback to prescribers is necessary to improve prescribing (educational, managerial, regulatory interventions may be required)



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Summary

Drug Use Evaluation will help improve medicine use by:

- Ensuring that pharmaceutical therapy meets current standards (STGs)
- Promoting optimal medication therapy
- Preventing medication-related problems
- Identifying areas in which further evaluation is needed
- Defining thresholds below which corrective action will be taken
- Enhancing accountability in medicine use
- Controlling medicine costs